

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DLOS-06 FEA-01 /023 W  
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R 170845Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS TAIPEI 0283

TOKYO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, XG, XE, TW  
SUBJECT: MARKETING INFORMATION REQUEST ON SQUID PRODUCTS

REF: STATE 305925

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION, REQUESTED REFTTEL, IS MAINLY PROVIDED AND RECOMPILED BY MARITIME ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION INSTITUTE (MAEI), OPERATING UNDER BOTH NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. THIS DATA HAS BEEN ACQUIRED AS PART OF SQUID RESEARCH PROJECT FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION. ALL FIGURES OF VALUE AND PRICE ARE EXPRESSED IN US\$.

2. TWO KINDS OF SQUID-LIKE CREATURES, I.E. SQUID (SCIENTIFIC NAME: OMMASTREPHIDAC) AND LOLIGO (OR NERITID SQUID), ARE CAUGHT.

A. BREAK OF INFORMATION OBTAINED ON FISHING AND MARKETING OF THREE SPECIES OF TRUE SQUID FOLLOWS:

(1) SYMPLETOTENTHIS OUALANIENSIS: FISHING PERIOD IS FROM APRIL THRU SEPTEMBER. FISHING GROUND IS INSHORE AREA  
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AROUND TAIWAN. CATCHES WERE AN ESTIMATED 90 MT VALUED AT \$94,737 AT LANDED PRICE OF \$1,053/KG IN 1976. ONLY ESTIMATES ARE AVAILABLE SINCE VERY FEW FISHING COMPANIES KEPT RECORDS FOR THIS SPECIES.

(2) TODARODES PACIFICUS: FISHING PERIOD IS FROM MAY THRU OCTOBER AND LANDING PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER THRU OCTOBER. FISHING GROUND

IS THE SEA OF JAPAN. TOTAL CATCHES WRE 540 MT WORTH \$710,526 AT LANDED PRICE OF \$1,316/KG IN OCTOBER, 1975 AND 792 MT WORTH \$1,250,526 AT LANDED PRICE OF \$1,579/KG IN 1976. LANDING BY MONTH IN 1976 WERE 111 MT IN SEPTEMBER AND 681 MT IN OCTOBER. WHOLESALE PRICE OF DRIED SQUID WAS \$10,947 IN 1976.

(3) NOTOTODARUS SLOANI SLOANI: FISHING PERIOD IS FROM DECEMBER THRU APRIL AND LANDING PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY THRU APRIL. FISHING GROUND IS INSHORE AREA OF NEWZEALAND. TOTAL CATCHES WERE 254 MT WORTH \$267,368 AT LANDED PRICE OF \$1,053/KGIN MAY, 1975 AND 1,379 MT WORTH \$1,596,737 AT LANDED PRICE OF \$1,158/KG IN 1976. LANDING BY MONTH IN 1976 WERE 54 MT IN FEBRUARY, 194 MT IN MARCH, 1,013 MT IN APRIL AND 118 MT IN MAY. WHOLESALE PRICE OF DRIED SQUID WAS \$8,763/KG IN 1976. SQUID IS ALWAYS DRIED BEFORE CONSUMPTION. ANNUAL DEMAND FOR DRIED SQUID IS ABOUT 1,200 MT TO 1,800 MT (EQUIVALENT TO 6,000 MT TO 9,000 MT OF FRESH SQUID.) SINCE TAIWAN'S CATCHES ARE NOT ENOUGH FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, TAIWAN MUST IMPORT ABOUT 4,000 MT TO 7,000 MT OF FRESH SQUID EQUIVALENCY. ALL OF THESE IMPORTS CAME FROM KOREA BEFORE 1976. HOWEVER, BEGINNING LAST YEAR TAIWAN BEGAN TO BUY ALSO FROM CANADA. THERE WERE TEN FRESH SQUID IMPORTERS PURCHASING 1,000 MT FROM KOREA AND 400 MT FROM CANADA IN 1976. ALL IMPORTED DRIED SQUID ARE STILL GOTTEN FROM KOREAM IMPORT PRICES OF FRESH SQUID WERE \$1,684/KG IN 1975 AND \$1,842/KG IN 1976 FROM KOREA AND \$1,316/KG IN 1976 FROM CANADA. IMPORT PRICE OF DRIED SQUID FROM KOREA WAS \$11.842/KG IN 1976.

TAIWAN HAD ONLY ONE SQUID VESSEL IN 1974 AND THREE IN 1975. UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW IT HAS 11 VESSELS IN OPERATION. SQUID VESSELS ENGAGE IN FISHING IN THE SEA OF JAPAN IN SUMMER AND GO TO INSHORE AREAS OFF NEW ZEALAND IN THE WINTER. SINCE SQUID FISHING WILL BE GREATLY AFFECTED BY EXPANSION OF 200-MILE ZONE BY THE SOVIET UNION AND BY POSSIBLE SIMILAR ACTIONS BY NEW ZEALAND, TAIWAN'S FISHING SQUID FLEET IS NOT LIKELY TO GROW IN 1977.

ALTHOUGH TAIWAN'S CATCHES OF SQUID ARE NOT SUFFICIENT FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION TAIWAN IS AMBITIOUS TO BUILD UP ITS OWN SQUID PROCESSING INDUSTRY AND TRY TO EVENTUALLY EXPORT PROCESSED SQUID. IT THUS IS INTERESTED IN IMPORTS OF FRESH SQUID IF PRICES ARE REASONABLE AND QUALITY IS GOOD (WEIGHT OF PROCESSED SQUIDS AFTER BEING DRIED IS AT LEAST 20 PERCENT THAT OF FRESH ONES AFTER BEING DRIED.

#### B. LOLIGO

EIGHT SPECIES OF LOLIGOS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY TAIWAN'S FISHERMEN. THEY CAN BE GROUPED INTO TWO KINDS, I.E. SMALL

LOLIGO SUCH AS LOLIGO JAPONICA; AND LARGE LOLIGO SUCH AS LOLIGO EDULIS. TOTAL LANDINGS OF LOLIGO WERE ESTIMATED AT 18,891 MT IN 1975 AND 25,183 MT IN 1976.

MAIN FISHING GROUND IS THE COASTAL AREA OF PESCADORES. SMALL SPECIES LIVE IN COASTAL AREAS AND THE FISHING PERIOD IS SUMMER AND AUTUMN. ANNUAL CATCHES HAVE FLUCTUATED GREATLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR RANGING FROM A FEW THOUSAND TONS TO MORE THAN 20,000 MT. LARGER SPECIES LIVE IN INSHORE AREA. FISHING PERIOD IS YEAR-AROUND WITH PEAK SEASONS IN SUMMER AND AUTUMN. ANNUAL CATCHES RANGE FROM TENS TO HUNDREDS OF MT. LANDED PRICES FOR LOLIGO FLUCTUATE MORE WIDELY THAN THOSE FOR SQUID. SMALL LOLIGO ALWAYS COMMAND HIGHER PRICE. HIGHEST PRICE EVER REACHED IS \$2,632/KG. SMALL LOLIGO IS CONSUMED EITHER FRESH OR SALTED WHILE LARGE SPECIES ARE EATEN FRESH OR DRIED. SINCE DEMAND FOR DRIED LOLIGO IS GREAT IN WINTER WHEN CATCHES ARE FEW, TAIWAN IS NOW EXPRESSING INTEREST IN IMPORTS OF LOLIGO ALTHOUGH LOLIGO HAS NEVER BEEN IMPORTED BEFORE.

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3. MAJOR PRESENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE IMPORTERS ARE OCEAN FISHERY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION, 1 KANG CHUNG II RD., CHIEN CHEN DISTRICT, KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN WHICH HAS PROCESSING PLANT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND TWO SQUID VESSELS; HSIN-HO-SHIN MARITIME ENTERPRISE CO., LTD., 2ND FL., NO. 1, NING HAI ROAD. KOO SHAN DISTRICT, KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN; AND CHAI FA MARITIME PROCESSING PLANT, 242 KANG/CHUNG II RD., CHIEN CHEN DISTRICT, KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN.

4. LAS PALMAS IS THE MAIN SQUID MARKETING LOCATION FOR NORTH WEST AFRICA. THE COUNTRIES DOING BUSINESS THERE ARE MAINLY JAPAN, KOREA, SPAIN AND ITALY. TAIWAN'S FISHING COMPANIES HAVE TWO REPRESENTATIVES THERE BUT ONLY FOR SUPPORT OF TUNA FISHERY. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SQUID-CATCHING. ALTHOUGH THE SEA AROUND LAS PALMES HAS A LOT OF SQUID, THE LOCAL FISHERMEN THERE USE THE SQUID ONLY AS FISHING BAIT.

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009